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Cellular Telephone And Multimedia
Accessory Audio System ..."
Atty. Docket No. 11343

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Allowability of Claims Over Ugge & Yamamoto

Rejection Summary

Claims 1-10, 12 and 14-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,781,850 (Ugge) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0142803 (Yamamoto). Office Action, 21 May 2004, para. 5.

Allowability of Claim 1

Regarding Claim 1, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest an

... adapter for coupling a mobile wireless communication station to an audiocassette player, comprising:
a cassette head coupling device;
a cassette adapter insertion detect switch;
a mobile wireless communication station coupling device having a mobile wireless communication station audio input coupled to the cassette head coupling device,
the mobile wireless communication station coupling device having an insertion detect signal output coupled to the cassette adapter insertion detect switch.

The Examiner's citation to various passages of Ugge to support the contention that Ugge discloses a "cassette adapter insertion detect switch" are misplaced. At col. 2, lines 11-19 and 28-31, Ugge merely discusses a vehicle audio system and a cassette adapter for insertion into the vehicle cassette player. At col. 2, lines 54-57, Ugge discloses a switch-over section for

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managing components shared by the radio receiver and the telephone function. At col. 3, lines 9-16, Ugge generally discusses insertion of a dummy cassette into the vehicle cassette player. At col. 4, lines 45-47, Ugge discloses activating the switch-over circuit (12) with a voice call signal. At col. 5, lines 62-65, Ugge discloses switching over from radio/tape player functional to cellular telephone function. Thus Ugge does not disclose a "cassette adapter insertion detect switch".

The Examiner concedes that Ugge does not disclose a "...wireless communication adapter insertion detect signal ..." produced by the insertion detect switch. However, the Examiner's assertion that it would have been obvious to "... combine Yamamoto's car mounted mobile communication audio (from CD or cassette player) detection feature ... [citations omitted] with Ugge's motor vehicle audio system adapter for mobile electronic and to audio cassette player ..." is unsupported by the prior art as discussed below.

Yamamoto discloses a mobile terminal that communicates wirelessly with a car mounted device to enable hands-free operation of the mobile terminal. In paras. [0014-0015], Yamamoto discloses sending a restraining command from the mobile terminal to the car mounted device when information is transferred to or from the car mounted device to prevent CD or radio output at the speakers. At paras. [0016-0020], Yamamoto discloses detecting when the mobile terminal is within range and beyond the range of the car mounted device, i.e., when the user enters and exits the vehicle. There is no suggestion to combine features of the wireless device of Yamamoto with the adapter device of Ugge. Yamamoto specifically states an intent to eliminate the need for car-kit accessories. Yamamoto, para [0005]. Claim 1 is thus patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

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Allowability of Claim 2

Regarding Claim 2, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 1,

... the audiocassette adapter having a multimedia accessory coupling device having a multimedia input coupled to the cassette head coupling device.

Neither Ugge nor Yamamoto disclose or suggest a multimedia accessory coupling device in combination with the cassette head coupling device of Claim 1. The CD and cassette player disclosed by Yamamoto are part of the automobile audio device. As noted, the object of Yamamoto is to eliminate the adapter. Claim 2 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 3

Regarding Claim 3, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 2,

... the multimedia accessory coupling device having a multimedia mute output coupled to a multimedia mute input on the mobile wireless communication station coupling device.

Neither Ugge nor Yamamoto disclose or suggest a multimedia accessory coupling device with a multimedia mute input in combination with the limitations of Claim 1. The CD and cassette player functionality disclosed

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by Yamamoto is part of the automobile audio device. As noted, the object of Yamamoto is to eliminate the adapter. Claim 3 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 4

Regarding Claim 4, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 1,

... the cassette adapter insertion detect switch having a state for indicating that the cassette head coupling device is operably coupled to a head of the audiocassette player.

The Examiner concedes that Ugge does not include a switch for detecting when the cassette head is operably coupled to the audiocassette player. Ugge discloses wireless connection (Bluetooth) between the mobile terminal and the car mounted device. Thus there is no suggestion in Yamamoto for providing a signal indicating when the cassette head is operably coupled to the cassette player. Claim 4 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 5

Regarding Claim 5, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 1,

... an audiocassette player command control signal output on the cassette adapter.

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Neither Ugge nor Yamamoto disclose or suggest an audiocassette player command control signal output on the cassette adapter in combination with the limitations of Claim 1. The commands disclosed by Yamamoto are from the mobile terminal to the car mounted device. Yamamoto teaches away from car-kit accessories, and therefore there is no suggestion in Yamamoto for generating accessory command control signals. The audiocassette player command control signal output on the cassette adapter permits controller a cell phone or other accessory using the vehicle cassette player controls. Claim 5 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 6

Regarding Claim 6, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 4,

... a control signal output on the cassette adapter coupled to an audiocassette player command signal generator for outputting control signals in response to audiocassette player commands.

Neither Ugge nor Yamamoto disclose or suggest a control signal output on the cassette adapter coupled to an audiocassette player command signal generator for outputting control signals in response to audiocassette player commands in combination with the limitations of Claim 1. The commands disclosed by Yamamoto are from the mobile terminal to the car mounted device. Yamamoto teaches away from car-kit accessories, and therefore there is no suggestion in Yamamoto for producing a control signal

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output for outputting control signals in response to player commands. Claim 6 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 7

Regarding Claim 7, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 6,

... the audiocassette player commands include play, forward, rewind, stop and pause.

Neither Ugge nor Yamamoto disclose or suggest the audiocassette player command of Claim 7 in combination with the limitations of Claim 6 for the reasons discussed above in connection with Claims 1 and 6. Claim 7 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 8

Regarding independent Claim 8, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest an

... audiocassette adapter for coupling a mobile electronic device to an audiocassette player, comprising:
a cassette head coupling device;
a mobile electronic device input coupled to the cassette head coupling device;
an audiocassette player command signal generator;
a control signal output coupled to the audiocassette player command signal generator.

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The Examiner concedes that Ugge fails to disclose "...an audiocassette player command signal generator; a control signal output coupled to the audiocassette player command signal generator." The control signal output of the audiocassette player command signal generator permits control of a portable electronic device, for example an MP3 player or a cellular phone, using the audiocassette player controls. At col. 5, lines 41-49, Ugge discusses an alternative dummy cassette adapter that does not use a transducer.

The Examiner's reliance on Yamamoto to make up for the admitted deficiency of Ugge is beyond reason. Yamamoto discloses a mobile terminal that communicates wirelessly with a car-mounted device with the stated object of eliminating the need for car-kit accessories. Thus there is no suggestion by Yamamoto to provide an audiocassette player command signal generator. At para. [0014], Yamamoto discloses sending a wireless command from the mobile terminal to the car-mounted device. At para. [0040], Yamamoto discloses WCDMA based communications between the mobile terminal and a cellular base station. Claim 8 is therefore patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 9

Regarding Claim 9, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 8,

... the audiocassette player command signal generator for outputting unique control signals in response to corresponding audiocassette player commands.

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At col. 5, lines 45-49, (referenced by the Examiner) Ugge discloses a plug (35) that disables recording/playing functions. Ugge does not disclose a command signal generator that outputs commands corresponding to the cassette player commands. Yamamoto is unconcerned with car kit accessories. Claim 9 is further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 10

Regarding Claim 10, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 8,

... the audiocassette player command signal generator comprising a rotational transducer with a transducer output coupled to the control signal output of the audiocassette adapter.

Ugge does not disclose a signal generator and therefore there is no suggestion for the transducer limitations of Claim 10. Yamamoto is concerned with wireless communications between a mobile terminal and a car-mounted device. The passage at col. 1, lines 15-21 (cited by the Examiner) does not meet or suggest the limitations of Claim 10. Claim 10 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 12

Regarding Claim 12, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 6,

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... the audiocassette player command signal generator comprising a cassette head actuatable switch with a switch output coupled to the control signal output of the audiocassette adapter.

Ugge does not disclose a signal generator and therefore there is no suggestion for the switch output limitations of Claim 12. Yamamoto is concerned with wireless communications between a mobile terminal and a car-mounted device. The switch-over device (13) of Ugge changes between the radio and telephone functionality, it has nothing to do with a player signal command generator. Claim 12 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 14

Regarding Claim 14, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 8,

... the audiocassette player command signal generator comprising an cassette head actuatable switch, the audiocassette player command signal generator comprising a rotational transducer;

a logic device having an output coupled to the control signal output;

a switch output of the audiocassette player head actuatable switch coupled to an input of the logic device, a transducer output of the rotational transducer coupled to another input of the logic device.

Ugge does not disclose a signal generator and therefore there is no suggestion for the transducer limitations of Claim 10. Yamamoto is concerned

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with wireless communications between a mobile terminal and a car-mounted device. The passage at col. 1, lines 15-21 (cited by the Examiner) does not meet or suggest the limitations of Claim 10. Claim 10 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 15

Regarding Claim 15, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 14,

... the audiocassette player command signal generator for outputting unique control signals in response to corresponding audiocassette player commands.

At col. 5, lines 45-49, (referenced by the Examiner) Ugge discloses a plug (35) that disables recording/playing functions. Ugge does not disclose a command signal generator that outputs commands corresponding to the cassette player commands. Yamamoto is unconcerned with car kit accessories. Claim 15 is further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 16

Regarding independent Claim 16, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest an

... method for coupling a mobile wireless communications station to an audio system with a cassette adapter disposable in a cassette player, comprising:

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detecting when the cassette adapter is disposed operably in the cassette player;

providing a cassette adapter insertion detect signal to a mobile wireless communication station coupling device output on the cassette adapter when the cassette adapter is disposed operably in the cassette player.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Ugge does not disclose "detecting when the cassette adapter is disposed operably in the cassette player". At col. 2, lines 11-19 and 28-31, Ugge merely discusses a vehicle audio system and a cassette adapter for insertion into the vehicle cassette player. At col. 2, lines 54-57, Ugge discloses a switch-over section for managing components shared by the radio receiver and the telephone function. At col. 3, lines 9-16, Ugge generally discusses insertion of a dummy cassette into the vehicle cassette player. At col. 4, lines 45-47, Ugge discloses activating the switch-over circuit (12) with a voice call signal. At col. 5, lines 62-65, Ugge discloses switching over from radio/tape player functional to cellular telephone function.

The Examiner concedes that Ugge does not disclose providing an audio insert detect signal. The Examiner's assertion that it would have been obvious to "... combine Yamamoto's car mounted mobile communication audio (from CD or cassette player) detection feature ... [citations omitted] with Ugge's motor vehicle audio system adapter for mobile electronic and to audio cassette player ..." is unsupported by the prior art as discussed further below.

Yamamoto discloses a mobile terminal that communicates wirelessly with a car mounted electronic device to enable hands-free operation of the mobile terminal. In paras. [0014-0015], Yamamoto discloses sending a restraining command from the mobile terminal to the car mounted device

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when information is transferred to or from the car mounted device to prevent CD or radio output at the speakers. At paras. [0016-0020], Yamamoto discloses detecting when the mobile terminal is within range and beyond the range of the car mounted device, i.e., when the user enters and exits the vehicle. There is no suggestion in Yamamoto to detect when an accessory is coupled to the audiocassette player. Also, Yamamoto specifically states intent to eliminate the need for car-kit accessories. Yamamoto, para [0005]. Claim 16 is thus patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 17

Regarding Claim 17, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 16,

... providing a multimedia device mute signal to a multimedia output of the cassette adapter.

Neither Ugge nor Yamamoto disclose a multimedia device in combination with an audio cassette adapter, and thus there is no suggestion to provide a multimedia mute signal. The CD and radio of Yamamoto are part of the car audio system. Claim 17 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 18

Regarding Claim 18, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 16,

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... providing the multimedia device mute signal to a multimedia output of the cassette adapter when receiving an audio signal at an audio at a mobile wireless communication station audio input of the cassette adapter.

Neither Ugge nor Yamamoto disclose a multimedia device in combination with an audio cassette adapter, and thus there is no suggestion to provide a multimedia mute signal. The CD and radio of Yamamoto are part of the vehicle audio system. Claim 18 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 19

Regarding Claim 19, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 16,

... providing a control signal at a control signal output of the cassette adapter in response to an audiocassette player command.

Claim 19 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Allowability of Claim 20

Regarding Claim 20, Ugge and Yamamoto fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the limitations of Claim 16,

... providing control signals at a control signal output of the cassette adapter by generating unique control signals with one of

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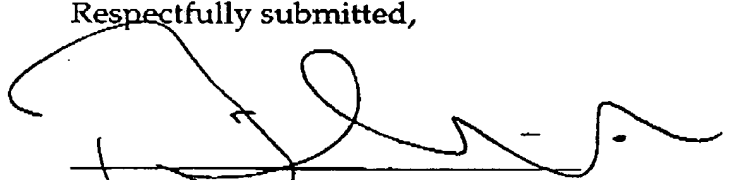
a rotational transducer of the cassette adapter and a momentary switch of the cassette adapter in response to audiocassette player play, forward, rewind, stop and pause commands.

Claim 20 is thus further patentably distinguished over Ugge and Yamamoto.

Prayer For Relief

In view of the amendments and the discussion above, the Claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Kindly withdraw any rejections and objections and allow this application to issue as a United States Patent without further delay.

Respectfully submitted,



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